

Date	5 July 2010	1000813
Applicant	FVLB	
Applicant to Labelling Body	The NZ Film Festival Trust	
Title (On Screen)	Splice	
Other Known Title		
Director/s	Vincenzo Natali	
Producer/s	Steven Hoban, Guillermo del Toro	
System Format	35mm Film	Country of Origin: Canada/France/USA
Language/s	English	
Classification	R16	
Descriptive Note	Violence, horror, sex scenes and offensive language	
Excision/s	Date Censored	
	7-7-10	
Total Running Time	108:54	Total Running Time after Excisions

0:00

Medman notice.

Gannont presents...

notice.

Copperheart ent+

A Vincenzo Natali Film

Adrien Brody

Sarah Polley

Micronscopic view of Rhinids (e.g. cells / arteries (if fish travelling through body) but blue-green). Acoustic / underwater music.

- 4:00 "Splice"
- 4:25 Surgeons operating. Patient's eye view.
Resuscitation.
- 5:40 Laboratory. Creature in incubator.
Amorphous - larva-like.
Clivician pituitary.
- Two of the creatures introduced to each other. Intertwined anterior protuberances "Love at first sight."
- 8:20 Business people talk about ~~splicing~~ splicing DNA into people to cure diseases.
- Also talk about show hybrid animal & how it renders ~~of~~ medical products.
- 11:30 The young scientists embark on human/animal splicing despite company head pulling the plug.
- 13:10 Scientist caught copying notes in laboratory. Successful splicing "Fuching" (in prison). (Genes shown) (LOL)
- 14:30 Epsa illegally goes to embryo stage - partner says is imprisonable offense.
Ovum shown under microscope, injected with DNA.
- 16:45 Horrible mutant creatures (unidentifiable) in jars in lab.
- 17:30 Monitoring lethal organism. Flattens then recombines.

18:20 "Fucking love it"
 Couple talk about having children.

19:30 R.C.

Emergency at laboratory. Embryo
 growth.

Woman sticks hand in arm
 pulled in. Cries out in pain.

Smash's incubator, cuts open
 sack.

Horrible, writhing creature
 tears away from its umbilicus.
 Thrashes on floor.

Elsa convulses, puncture wounds

22:00 ~~Intro~~
 Creature has stabbing spike on
 tail.

23:00 Talk about whether creature is
 in ~~2~~ pain ~~was~~ (for bed at
 night) → put out of its misery.

24:30 Poke the dead creature
 Slimey, ill looking.

Part of creature missing.
 Scuttling around lab.

~~25~~ 25:30 Creature scuttles, jumps
 & squawks about lab.

Man wants to gas it.

26:50 Woman holds hand out to
 it. Strange, 2-legged creature.

27:30 Man straps woman out of lab, brandishes pipe at creature.

28:00 Etra Gaining of creature, chipmunked & disoriented walks into things, collapses.
~~Down~~ (Not dead.)

29:00 Examining creature's ~~body~~ in lab. Cross-section. Oozing substance from end of one of its digits or tail.

30:00 Talk about how its dying from - ~~an~~ accelerated maturation.

31:00 Creature squeals, chained up. Struggles, jumps around. ~~By~~ rabidly. Squeals, upset.

32:30 Creature eating. Cute.

36:20 ~~RE?~~

Creature like a little girl. Wears ~~chris~~, has teddy bear. Teach it to spell/words.

38:35 R.C. → Etra
Obv ← Man & woman argue. (Tuchick)
Creature has big spine, jumps onto lab tech, has him by throat.

Down.

41:00 Dren vomits.

42:00 Name sick Dren. Put her into cold bath to reduce her fever. Disoriented. Kicks. Breathing difficulty.

- 43:30 Clive holds ~~see~~ Dren's hair, pushes ~~it~~ under while it thrashes. Elsa pleads, cries.
- 44:50 Dren breathing ^{underwater}. Dren ^{Calvin} saved her.
- 47:00 E & C piss. E straddles C. Undoes belt. E moves up & down, pants. C sighs. They're quiet - D ~~is~~ watches behind curtain.
- Organic short pants. (Still ^{glazed}) Sex
- 50:00 Genetically modified creatures ^{glazed} show savage each other to death. Bloody Tanker falls & smashes spilling gore, audience horror
- (2 males) - 1 ~~is~~ it had become a ♂
- 52:30 Men argue.
- 52:65 R.C.
- 53:20 Take the creature from the lab. She huddles in the box.
- 54:35 Dren showed new home - a barn, snow. Squeals & runs away.
- 55:30 Dren gnawing at an animal she's caught. Face bloody, holds mutilated carcass.
- 58:10 E & C visit home where E grew up. Bedroom bare with ~~two~~ bowls in a corner. Says that was how it was. Cruelty
- (Suggests abuse).
- 1:00:65 Dren eadles cat.

1:02:00 Dren not allowed to go outside.
Throws tantrum, throws stuff.

Bob = yells at her.

1:04:00 Dren sprouts wings, goes to fly
E puts mally up on D.

1:06:30 E takes D's pet cat
"you can't always get what you
want." Cruelty

1:08:30 D & C dance. C looks at E in
romantic way; breaks dance, ~~walks~~
says goodbye

1:10:28 R. C.

~~1:11:40~~

1:13:00 E gives cat back to D.
D shakes it to death with
tail. Threatens E, takes
key

E ~~frustrated~~ bashes D on head
with stone.

1:14:50 E Tied D up on table,
examines her in lab. tone.

Strips D of clothes.

Says will remove glands &
stinger. Cuts into her with
scalpel. D whimpers & squeals.

1:16:25 Cut off tail. Bloody. Cruelty

1:17:00 C incredulous; consoles D.
E still cold in attitude.

1:18:50 C looks at D, ~~on~~ ~~can~~.
Mermaidish. Slightly sexual.

- 1:20:45 Suggestion of i/c with
D & C. Throaty - by ~~the~~ ~~hips~~
hips. Embrace, swathe, ~~through~~ sex
- 1:22:50 E walks in on them.
- 1:25:20 C & E argue.
- 1:27:35 Look for Dren.
- 1:28:45 Dren sick "she's dying".
- 1:29:25 R.C.
- 1:29:50 They bury Dren (shayeffin
dirt on top of her cloth shower
only).
- 1:32:50 ^{man's} Doped, body slumped in tree,
scratches on ~~face~~ injury
- D alive - male now. Stands
menacingly, squeals, on top of
burn.
- 1:34:00 Clive pulled under water
Almost drowned, cold.
- 1:35:20 D comes out of water,
aggraving. Chases E, who ~~flies~~
flees.
- 1:37:15 Creature pins E to ground.
Says "inside you" when asked
what it wants. ~~Tears~~ Rips
her clothing off.
- 1:38:30 D [^] Thumping while lying on top
of E.
C staps it in back with a
stake.

if D jumps on C. E bashes
it on head with a rock.

Bloody head.

Violence

1:40:00 C stepped by D's tail & dies.
E smashes its head with rock.
D also ~~is~~ dead.

E cries.

1:41:00 E & boss talk about next
phase, Personal risk. Must be
secret. Suggestion that E is
carrying the creature's letter.

1:43:20 Credits. Music
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1:48:54

SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR DECISION

Under the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993 (FVPC Act)

HEADNOTE

Title of publication:	Splice
Other known title(s):	Not stated
OFLC ref:	1000813.000
Medium:	Film
Classification:	Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 16 years.
Descriptive note:	Violence, horror, sex scenes and offensive language.
Display conditions:	None

Splice is classified as Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to people who are at least 16 years old. This restriction is due to matters of crime, sex, violence and highly offensive language.

The publication *Splice* is a 2009 science-fiction/horror feature film about a scientist couple named Elsa and Clive. They have achieved professional acclaim at the company they work for by creating a novel, pharmaceutically productive organism by splicing together DNA from disparate sources. They are, however, refused permission to undertake research involving genetically modifying people to cure diseases. They pay no heed, and secretly combine human and animal DNA to create a hybrid embryo. A strange, fast-growing creature with a sting in its tail is the result. They name the creature Dren. As it ages, the creature develops human characteristics, and is apparently female. Elsa and Clive become attached to Dren, and raise it to adolescence as if it were a human child. Longing for freedom, the creature becomes increasingly aggressive. It also becomes sexually aware, and Clive has a brief affair with Dren. After metamorphosing to become male, it kills both Clive and his brother, and rapes Elsa. She bashes it to death with a rock. The final scene suggests that Elsa has fallen pregnant to Dren, and the company will pay her to see the foetus to term because of the creature's remarkable value in producing a range of pharmaceuticals.

In regards to s3(1) of the FVPC Act the publication deals with matters of sex, horror, crime, cruelty and violence. Matters of crime do not impact on the reasons for decision.

The film contains several depictions of sexual activity. Elsa is shown straddling Clive, and their thrusting, panting and passionate embrace indicates they are engaging in intercourse. In a later scene Clive and Dren kiss and embrace. He removes his clothes, and movement, panting and embracing indicate sexual intercourse. The latter scene is fairly detailed, with the camera scanning the lover's bodies as Clive's naked hips thrust between Dren's legs. The degrading aspects of this scene are discussed below under s3(3)(a)(ii). Other sexual activity includes rape, and is discussed below under s3(3)(a)(ii).

The film contains a significant amount of content that has a horrific effect. The fantasy creatures created by the scientists through genetic experimentation appear disturbingly bizarre. In one gory scene two giant slug-like creatures bare stings and stab each other to death, and shake their tank so that its bloody contents are spilled over spectators. Dren also has a large poisonous sting at the end of her tail, which she bares menacingly at times. It is filled with a toxin, which she stabs into a cat's neck, and later into Clive. Both die as a result. The overall sense of imminent danger from rogue scientific experimentation, in addition to the unsettling, monstrous appearance of the creatures also adds significantly to the sense of horror. Horror additionally arises from the infliction of harm and cruelty. These elements are discussed below.

The publication deals with matters of cruelty in a way that is likely to disturb children. Cruelty mainly occurs when Clive and Elsa are torn between seeing Dren as a dangerous experiment, or as a child whom they love and nurture. Clive tries to drown Dren, and pushes her underwater, holding her there until she ceases to move, despite Elsa's tearful pleas. Elsa refers to her harsh childhood with a cruel mother. Elsa is herself cruel to Dren, dehumanising and mutilating her out of spite. She binds Dren to a table, cuts off her clothes, and cuts the end of her tail off with a scalpel, with a bloody injury shown. She ignores Dren's whimpers and other attempts at communication.

Nothing in the publication satisfies the criteria under s3(2) of the FVPC Act.

The infliction of serious physical harm falls under s3(3)(a)(i) of the FVPC Act. Dren becomes increasingly violent, inflicting serious physical harm on Clive and his brother. The depictions are limited in extent and manner. Clive's brother is hurled into a tree by Dren. He is shown lying in the branches with gashes down one side of his face. He later dies, uttering his last words to Clive. After raping Elsie, Elsie bashes it on the head with a rock, causing a large bloody wound on the creature's head. Dren then stabs Clive with its tail, and he dies. Elsie bashes Dren again, killing it, and Elsie breaks down in tears. The depictions of the infliction of serious physical harm will shock and disturb children, but are unlikely to have a great impact on teenagers; the lighting is dim, the harm is caused by or inflicted on a fantasy creature, albeit part human, and inflictions of harm are infrequent.

Sexual violence and coercion is discussed under s3(3)(a)(ii). After metamorphosing to become an aggressively territorial male, Dren pins Elsie to the ground. She asks it what it wants, and it rasps with difficulty "inside you" while it leers. She cries out as it tears her clothes open with its tail-sting, and it makes thrusting motions. While fairly graphic and unsuitable for children and younger teenagers, the depiction is somewhat unrealistic for the absurd scenario of a fictional, unlikely creature performing the act. It is not salacious or made a spectacle, instead intending for the audience to be horrified by the terrible scenario.

Under s3(3)(a)(iii), Clive's sexual activity with Dren constitutes degrading conduct to a mild degree. This is because Dren is not entirely human, and because Clive transgresses the caregiver role that he had in looking after Dren. Additionally, Elsie bearing the foetus of a half-human creature to term for financial gain is also mildly degrading.

Under s3A of the FVPC Act characters use the word "fuck" as an expletive in conversation. This contributes to the need to restrict the publication.

Overall, the publication presents as a science-fiction/horror that exploits fictional ethical dilemmas associated with genetic experimentation for horrific effect.

There is likely injury to the public good in the film's availability to younger teenagers and children because of its treatment of matters such as sex, horror, cruelty, violence, and the use of highly offensive language. Society perceives harm in younger viewers' exposure to sexual matters, particularly more challenging material such as the depicted rape, in that they are not developmentally ready. Casual use of highly offensive language by characters would be imitated by some children and younger teenagers, bearing the risk of consequent censure. The depictions of cruelty and the infliction of serious physical harm will greatly shock and disturb children. Both children and younger teenagers may be desensitised and become inured to violence and cruelty if repeatedly exposed to such content. Older teenagers and adults can put the more challenging material into context because of experience and maturity that younger viewers lack. Restricting the publication to these older viewers is considered to be a reasonable and justified limitation on the freedom of expression to minimise the likelihood of injury to the public good that would be caused by making the film available to younger viewers. The publication is therefore restricted to an audience aged 16 years of age and over.

Note:

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CLASSIFICATION DATABASE APPLICATION

WORK BATCH
 Publication

Work Items: 60

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Publications Search Screen - Publication

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Publication Outline for Splice

Print Summary Add Recon

Publication Number: 1000813.000

Publication Title: Splice

Other Known Titles: [Empty]

Submission Channel: s121 Medium: Film

Is Associated Advertising:

Language: [Dropdown: Afghani, Afar, Afrikaans, Albanian, English]

Country of Origin: [Dropdown: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, American Samoa, Canada, France, United States]

Film Festival Name: 2010 NZ International Film Festival

CIN: [Empty] Date of Court Order: [Empty]

Publication Status: Complete Assigned To: [Empty]

Examination Transcript No: 623, p.320 ISBN: [Empty]

Record Sources: CDA

File Notes

Other Known Titles:

* Submission Channel: s12(1) * Medium: Film

Is Associated Advertising:

Language: Add >> << Remove

Country of Origin: Add >> << Remove

Country of Origin: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, American Samoa, Canada, France, United States

Film Festival Name: 2010 NZ International Film Festival Add

CRN: Date of Court Order:

Publication Status: Complete Assigned To:

Examination Transcript No: 523, p.320 ISBN:

Record Source: CDA

File Notes

Select Date: Created By: File Notes:

Fee Details

Expected Fee (\$):	1118.30	Base Fee (\$):	1100.00
Less (-):		PLUS (+):	
Fee Waiver:	75.005 825.00	Urgency Amount (\$):	
		Recovery (\$):	840.30

Corrigendum Details

Date Created: Created By: * Type: * Status:

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Outline for Fee Recovery

Request ID: R100487
 Request Type: Fee Recovery
 Date Created: 30/11/2010

Reason for Application: Original fee calculation based on 12.5% p.a. (\$1,100 inc./977.78 excl., less 75% = \$275 inc./744.45 excl.). Fee recovery based on balance of fee at 1% p.a. which is \$843.30 inc./5733.33 excl.

Fee Recovery Amount: \$42.30
 Request Status: Complete
 STATUS DATE: 30/11/2010

Publication Details

1000013.000 Police Film

Applicant Details

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Addresses

Addresses for Splice

1000815,000 Film

- Film & Video Labelling Body Applicant
- The New Zealand Film Festival Trust Applicant to Labelling Body, Distributor
- Vincenzo Nibali Director
- Steven Hoban Producer
- Guillermo Del Toro Producer

1000815,000 Film

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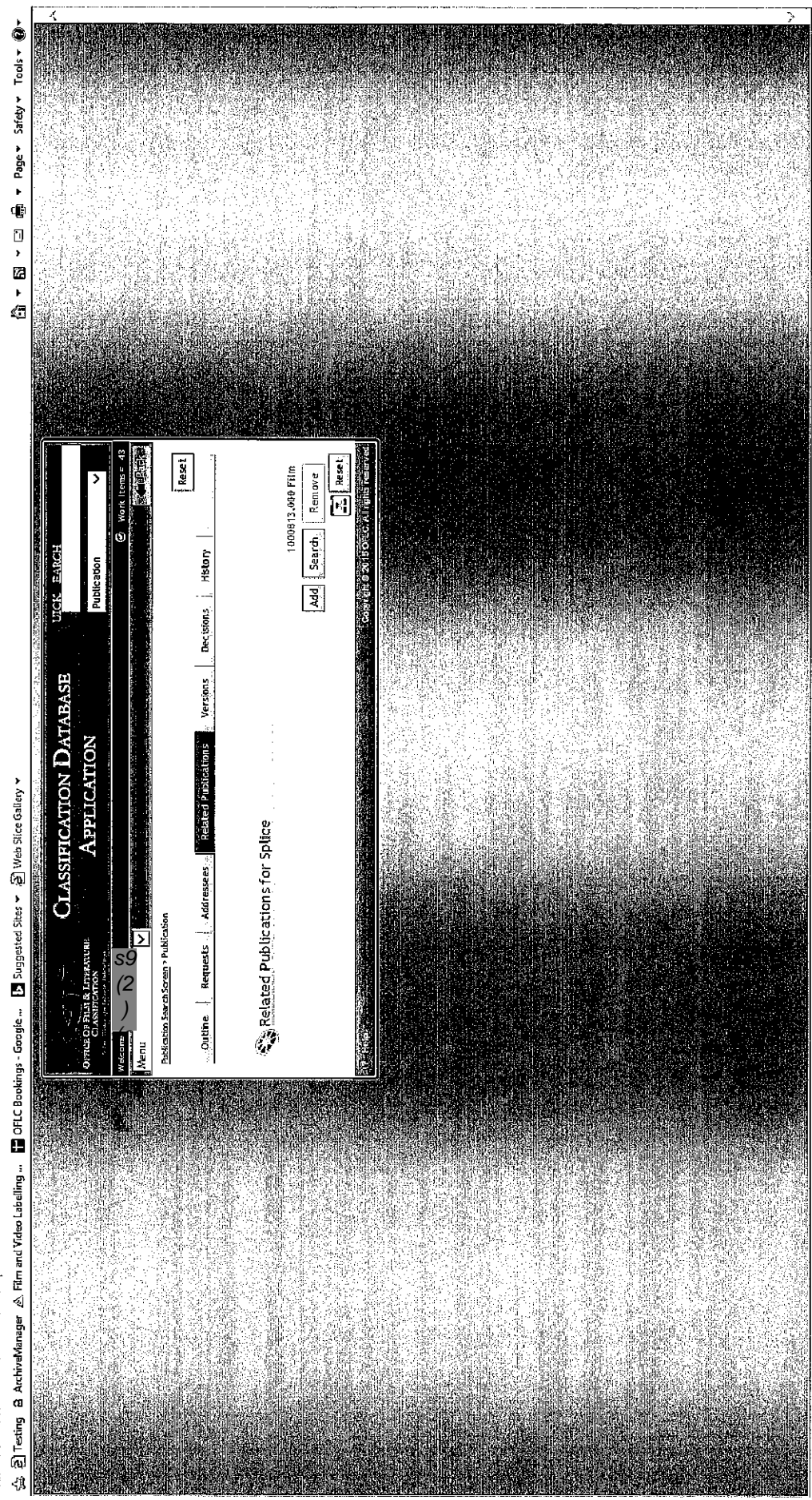
1000913.009 Film

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Related Publications for Splice

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WORK ITEMS: 42

Publication Versions for Splice

1000819.000 Film

Version 1

Publication Copied: Date Copied:

Publication: Add Version

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* Description

Running Time: 108:54
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Total Running Time: 108:54
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Publication Search Screen: Publication - Decision

Outline

Decision for Splice

1000813-000 Film

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*** Classification Type:**

No Exclusions Decision

Classification Body:

*** Standard Classifications:**

Descriptive Note:

Summary of Reasons for Classification (Register Page):

Date Decision Registered:

Additional Information:

Standard Customised

Publication Status: Complete

OFPL: R16

Version Number: 1

Violence, horror, sex scenes and offensive language

Not applicable

08/07/2010

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Display Conditions

s27(5) Display Conditions:

s27(5) Display Conditions on any film poster:

Batched Publications for Written Reasons

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Publication History for Splice

1000813-008 Film

Status	User Name	Date
Complete		04/08/2010
Decision Registered		08/07/2010
Classified & Signed		07/07/2010
Decision Affirmed		07/07/2010
Draft Complete		05/07/2010
Drafting Decision		05/07/2010
Examined		05/07/2010
Examining		05/07/2010
Queued		16/06/2010
Logged		14/05/2010

Publication Movements

Movement	Date	Notes
Pub Received	16/06/2010	
Pub Dispatched	05/07/2010	Returned to NZ Film Festival Wellington
Final Docs Disattached	06/07/2010	